SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

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JUN 16 1969

Cont Copy

Best wishes for a Happy New Year

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

our editorial

New year, New great successes

(page 5)

1968 Unprecedentedly great and all-sided victories

(page 3)

OUR PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY POWER

(page 5)

NFL authentic representative of the SVN people

(page 8)

Fierce fight by the long-haired army

(page 7)

President HO CHI MINH

The NFL is the organiser and leader of the entire SVN people.

"Dear President,

ON the occasion of the 8th anniversary of the founding of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, on behalf of all our compatriots, and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, I wish to extend my warmest greetings to you, to all the members of the Central Committee of the National Front for Liberation, and the armed forces and people of heroic South Viet Nam.

Over the last eight years, under the clearsighted leadership of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam have united more and more in resisting the U.S. aggression and saving the country. The more they fight, the bigger their strength, and the harder they fight, the greater their victories. They have added very glorious pages to the history of our nation. This is the victory of the NFL's correct line of resistance. This is the victory of the ardent patriotism and revolutionary heroism of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people.

(Continued on page 6)

President NGUYEN HUU THO :

The SVN people pledge to push forward the sacred war of resistance against U.S. aggression.

LAWYER Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation Central Committee, has sent a letter to President Ho Chi Minh in reply to his message greeting the Front's 8th founding anniversary.

The letter, dated December, 25, said that President Ho Chi Minh's message had filled all the people and fighters in South Viet Nam and the Front's Central Committee with great enthusiasm and strong confidence in their certain victory.

It went on : "Since then, under the Front's patriotic banner, the banner of nation-wide solidarity, and following the path charted in the 10-point Program formerly and the present Political Program of the Front, the South Vietnamese people, irrespective of social standing, class, nationality, religious creed, whether they are in the towns or in the countryside, regardless of age and sex, have united millions as one, fought unflinchingly, and repeatedly foiled all aggressive plans of the U.S.

(Continued on page 6)

Let's go and fight so that spring may come to our land

Photo : GPPA

NFL AND DRVN DELEGATIONS' JOINT COMMUNIQUE ON US-PUPPETS' DELAYING PARIS CONFERENCE

THE delegation of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation led by Mr Tran Buu Kiem and the delegation of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam led by Minister Xuan Thuy to the four-party Paris Conference on Viet Nam, on December, 24 held talks at the seat of the delegation of the NFL. The two delegations on December 25 issued the following joint communique :

1. After U.S. President L. Johnson on October 31, 1968 was compelled to declare the unconditional cessation of bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN and, at the same time, proposed that the Paris conference on Viet Nam be held on November 6, 1968, the Government of the DRVN and the Central Committee of the SVNNFL on November 2 and November 3, 1968, respectively issued declarations reaffirming their position to resolutely struggle for independence and freedom, and accepting to participate in the four-party Paris conference including the DRVN., the SVNNFL, the U.S. and the Saigon administration, On November 4, 1968, Mrs Nguyen Thi Binh, the representative of the NFL came to Paris, ready to take part in the conference. But the Saigon administration, by means of tortuous arguments, refused to sent its representatives to the conference as scheduled. Confronted with this situation, the representatives of the DRVN and of the NFL proposed to the representatives of the U.S. that the three delegations already present in Paris should start the conference and that the representatives of the Saigon administration would join in as soon as they arrived in Paris. The U.S., however, did not accept this proposal, therefore over one month has elapsed without any result being achieved.

2. Not until December 8, 1968, under the pressure of the South Vietnamese people and of world public opinion, did the Saigon administration send to Paris a delegation headed by the bellicose puppet Nguyen Cao Ky who has never failed to express his worship for Hitler that he considers as his master. Since then, the attitude of the Thieu-Ky-Huong administration has more and more proved to be a great obstacle to the holding of the conference.

They have even availed themselves of the procedural discussions, usual and natural before any conference may begin, to hamper the conference. Both the Saigon administration and the U.S. have stuck to their absurd proposal of a " two-side " conference — the US and the Saigon administration on one side and the DRVN and the SVNNFL on the other — whereas there are in fact four delegations. They have refused to recognize the Front as an independent and equal party to the conference, thus trying to deny the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people and refusing to admit the role of the SVNNFL, the organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese people's struggle against the US aggressors and their lackeys, and the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people. This is precisely why the U.S. and the Saigon administration have demanded that the seats of the four delegations be arranged along two sides, at a long rectangular table, or at an oval or round table split into two parts, thus carrying out into effect their erroneous viewpoint.

In the meantime, the U.S. and the Saigon administration have perpetrated new crimes in Viet Nam. In the South, they have intensified the war, carried out the " emergency pacification " plan, tried to concentrate the population, increased indiscriminate B-52 bombings on populous areas, and stepped up toxic-chemical spraying. Moreover, the Saigon administration is doing its utmost to pressgang youths into the army, persecuted all groups of people and individuals that stand for peace, neutrality and talks with the SVNNFL. In North Viet Nam, in contradiction with U.S. President Johnson's October 31 declaration, the U.S. has continued to carry out reconnaissance flights and to launch air-attacks against a number of localities lying between the 17th and 19th parallels, thus infringing upon the sovereignty and security of the DRVN.

The above-mentioned facts prove that the U.S. has not yet renounced its scheme of aggression and is still trying to maintain the Saigon administration as an instrument for the furtherance of neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, and that the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique are still trying to cling to the U.S. aggressors so as to continue the war and to live on the people's blood and sweat.

3. The Delegation of the SVNNFL and the Delegation of the Government of the DRVN reaffirm their serious intent and goodwill towards the Paris conference and reaffirm that the position of the Vietnamese people on the

(Continued on page 7)

● *The Presidium of the NFL Central Committee held a grand meeting on the night of December 19 in the liberated zone to mark the 8th founding anniversary of the Front.*

Seated at the Presidium of the meeting were Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the NFL Central Committee and other leaders of the NFL.

After President Nguyen Huu Tho had inaugurated the meeting, Dr Phung Van Cung, Vice-President of the Presidium of the NFL C.C., delivered a speech in which he warmly welcomed the great achievements of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people in the past 8 years, particularly the brilliant feat-of-arms in the current general offensive and concerted uprisings.

Mme Nguyen Thi Dinh, Deputy Commander of the South Viet Nam PLAF, then read out the Appeal made by the Central Committee of the NFL in this occasion.

● At a grand meeting held in Hanoi on the night of December 18 to mark the 8th founding anniversary of the South Viet Nam NFL, taking the floor, Nguyen Phu Soai, *Acting Head of the NFL's Permanent Representation in North Viet Nam*, pointed out the great and all-round achievements obtained by the South Vietnamese people in the past 8 years. He laid emphasis on the fraternal love between the South Vietnamese people and their kith-and-kin compatriots in North Viet Nam.

The participants in the meeting burst into long applause when Premier Pham Van Dong introduced six Young Pioneers holders of the title " Outstanding fighters " who had come from South Viet nam on a visit to the North. They were *one girl, Ho Thi Thu, 14, and five boys — Vo Huong, 15, Ho Quang Thu, 16, Ho Ngoc Bien, 16, Nguyen Van Hoa, 15, and Ho Van Men, 15.*

● *Giai Phong* Press Agency has released a message from Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the SVNNFL, to Chairman Mao-Tse-tung, greeting his 75th birthday.

NFL'S ACTIVITIES

● Le Phuong, Director of *the Stockholm Information Bureau of the South Vietnam National Front for Liberation*, on December 9 called on Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson. He thanked the Swedish Foreign Minister for his consideration, and asked him to convey the NFL's thanks to the Swedish Government for its sympathy with and support for the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

The same day, Le Phuong met Pierre Schori, External Relations Secretary of the Swedish Social-Democratic Party, who handed him a letter and a sum of 75,000 Kronor from the S.S.D.P. as aid to the NFL.

● Le Ky Van, chargé d'affaires ad interim of *the Permanent Representation of the South Viet Nam NFL in the Syrian Arab Republic*, has called on Assaad Sakr, Syrian Minister of Information. He has also visited leaders of various Syrian mass organizations. He has had several visitors among them diplomatic envoys from the DRVN, the People's Republic of China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Cuba, Rumania, Czechoslovakia, Bulgaria and the German Democratic Republic.

● Nguyen Duc Van, Head of the *Delegation of the SVN Peace Committee* arrived on December 12 in Stockholm to attend the Stockholm Conference on Viet Nam, called on Swedish Foreign Minister Torsten Nilsson. The same day, Nguyen Duc Van called on Swedish Education and culture Minister Olaf Palm.

PRESIDENT NGUYEN HUU THO'S MESSAGE TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

On December 20, 1968, Lawyer Nguyen Huu Tho, President of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation sent the following letter, to the American people on the occasion of Christmas and New Year's Day :

Dear friends,

On the occasion of Christmas and New Year's Day, on behalf of the South Vietnamese people and the National Front for Liberation and in my own name, I wish to extend to you my best wishes.

I sincerely thank you for your big efforts aiming at to stop the war of aggression waged by the U.S. government in our country.

Confronted with the valiant and persistent struggle of the people throughout Viet Nam and in face of your demand and the demands of other peoples in the world, the U.S. government has been compelled to end unconditionally the bombing and shelling on the whole territory of the DRVN and agree to a conference with the participation of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation, the United States and the Saigon administration, to seek a political solution to the Viet Nam problem. This is an initial but very big victory of the Vietnamese people, the progressive people in the U.S. and peace-and justice-loving people all over the world.

On the basis of its five-point stand and with its serious and goodwill attitude, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is ready to hold talks with the parties concerned with a view to seeking a political solution to the South Viet Nam problem conformable to the aspirations of the South Vietnamese people for independence and peace and the legitimate interests of the American people.

However, the U.S. government has not yet given up its aggressive design, instead is stubbornly stepping up its barbarous attacks in South Viet Nam and perpetrating new, bloody crimes against our compatriots while continuing to grossly violate the sovereignty and security of the DRVN. On the other hand, the U.S. and the Saigon administration have sought every way and means to delay the holding of the four-party conference in Paris.

It is our belief that you who inherit the American people's tradition of freedom and justice, will continue, together with our people and the progressive people the world over, to struggle on a wider scale and more vigorously still to force the U.S. government to stop its aggression against Viet Nam, withdraw all troops of the U.S. and its satellites and all their weapons and war means from South Viet Nam, leave the South Vietnamese people alone to settle their own internal affairs in accordance with the NFL's Political Program, without foreign interference.

The great struggle against the U.S. government's aggressive policy, for the legitimate interests of our two peoples and the interests of world peace, will certainly win complete victory.

I wish you a happy New Year and new victories.

1968 Unprecedentedly great and all-sided victories

— 630,000 enemies wiped out

— Revolutionary power set up everywhere

(Excerpts from Communique of PLAF Command on victories recorded in 1968)

THE Command of the South Viet Nam People's Liberation Armed forces on December 30 issued a communique reviewing the great victories recorded by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces during 1968, the first year of their general offensive and widespread uprising against the U.S. imperialist aggressors and their henchmen in South Viet Nam.

The communique said:

In 1968, the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces recorded the most all-sided and greatest victories so far.

In the military field, according to incomplete figures, they:

— killed, wounded or captured 630,000 enemy troops including more than 230,000 U.S. and satellite troops. Besides, hundreds of thousands of puppet troops deserted or were disbanded.

— wiped out or heavily decimated one brigade, 7 regiments and multi-battalion units, 187 battalions, 18 amour squadrons, and over 750 companies of the U.S., satellite and puppet armies.

— shot down, destroyed on the ground or damaged 6,000 aircraft of various kinds.

— destroyed or damaged 13,500 military vehicles including more than 7,000 tanks and armoured cars.

— sank or set afire 1,000 vessels, combat launches or cargo ships, 40 of which with a displacement capacity of 10,000 tons or more.

— wrecked over 1,100 artillery pieces.

— set ablaze more than 700 ammunition storages or fuel dumps.

— blew up over 700 bridges.

— and razed to the ground or forced the enemy to abandon 1,500 military sub-sectors and posts.

These achievements are by far higher than those in 1966 and 1967 put together. In particular, the number of U.S. troops wiped out in 1968 nearly equals that for the whole period from 1961 to 1967.

These figures spell the great achievements of the South Viet Nam liberation forces and people in a one-year period. They are all the more significant since they were recorded at a time when the enemy still has more than one million U.S. and puppet troops. Worthy of note is that all the crack units of the enemy have taken losses upward of fifty per cent of their effectives. All the cities and towns in South Viet Nam including Saigon, the last hide-out of the enemy, were attacked again and again. Almost all of the enemy nerve organs from central to grass-root levels suffered heavy losses. All the life lines of the enemy were repeatedly attacked or cut off. All the three kinds of our armed forces — the regular army, the regional and guerilla forces — have grown up in fighting and building. The more they fight the stronger they become and the greater victories they win on all battlefields, in the highland area, the plains as well as cities and towns. They have completely defeated the two-pronged "search and destroy" plan of the enemy, and smashed all their strategies and tactics as well as their large-scale operations.

On the political plane, the widespread uprising of our people is a momentous and creative development of the process of fierce, and dauntless uprising of the South Viet Nam revolution. Tens of millions of our people have resolutely risen up to win back the right to be masters of the country.

This is the most eloquent expression of the heroic posture and earnest aspiration of our entire people who had rather die than be enslaved and who prize independence and freedom more than anything else.

... A big achievement of our people's great uprising is the liberation and complete control of more than 1,000 additional hamlets. Over 2 million more people have been freed from the enemy's grip. Revolutionary power has been set up in many villages, districts and provinces, which politically has dealt a mortal blow at the U.S. — puppets, breaking their control by big chunks, and knocking the "legal and constitutional" varnish of the puppet reactionary Thieu-Ky administration which, in fact, represents nobody. Even in its infancy, the people's revolutionary power is full of vitality, and brilliantly manifests the superiority of a revolutionary power of the people and for the people.

Referring to the emergence of the Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces, the communique said it has taken the national front against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, an important step forward while further aggravating the isolation of the enemy and causing deeper differentiation of their ranks, narrowing down their political base into a mere gang of cruel agents owing many blood debts to our people, a clique of dirty reactionaries who owe their existence to the U.S. imperialists' neo-colonialist policy...

On the diplomatic field, the justness of the South Vietnamese people's struggle has for long reached all the continents, while the NFL is taking part, more and more actively and effectively, in international bodies and in important international activities. Many countries have accepted permanent representations or missions of the NFL, enhancing its prestige and position in the international arena.

Impetuous attack in Saigon City by Liberation troops
Photo: GPPA

The general offensive and widespread uprising in the past year has resounded in the whole world and has had strong repercussions in the United States. The South Vietnamese people's iron-like determination to liberate the country is winning more sympathy from the millions of different race and languages.

The South Vietnamese people glorious struggle has compelled the U.S. to agree to negotiate with the NFL in Paris. The NFL has enjoyed enthusiastic support from the world's peoples who have clearly seen in it the inspirer, organizer and leader of the South Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, the embodiment of the South Viet Nam people's aspirations to peace and independence, the authority fully competent to discuss and settle all questions concerning the political solution to the South Viet Nam issue. On both the diplomatic front and the battlefield, the NFL — the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people — is pressing attacks on the U.S. imperialists — chieftain of imperialism — while the whole progressive mankind including the peace-and justice-loving people in the United States, is demanding an immediate end to the U.S. war of aggression and the return of all U.S. troops.

Enumerating the profound significance of all these victories, the communique said:

First, the great and all-sided victories in 1968 have created for the South Vietnamese people a new strategic position, and endowed them with a new strength and new ability. They have made the combined strength of the people develop rapidly in the new military situation, and have given rise to new, favourable opportunities for the continuation of the general offensive and widespread uprising, till complete victory.

The deep changes in the war situation have found a concentrated expression in the following points:

The enemy have bogged down ear-deep into their defensive strategy in South Viet Nam. Before they had had time to deploy after their "search-and-destroy" and "pacification" plans for 1968, the enemy had to switch abruptly to the passive "hold-and-clear" strategy which has received crushing blows right from the beginning and is fraught with contradictions: contradiction between the task of the aggressive war - to defeat the opponent by military offensive - and the present defensive strategy; contradiction between the role of U.S. troops now bearing the brunt of the war and the need to "de-Americanize" the war to ease the tension in the United States; contradiction between the weakening puppet army and its duty of taking over the burden of the war; contradiction between concentration and dispersion of forces respectively to defend the towns and pacify the countryside; contradiction between the ambitious designs of the aggressors and the sinking morale and low combat efficiency of both US and puppet troops who get fed up with the war and want peace now; contradiction between the political objectives of neo-colonialism and the barbarous war methods, etc.

Outwardly the enemy's defensive looks firm enough, with layer after layer of defensive lines. But in fact it is vulnerable, and has exposed the enemy to repeated attacks, and continual strategic encirclement on the whole battlefield, especially in urban areas.

Militarily, the enemy's strategic position is included in the over-all situation of weakness and difficulties of the U.S. in the political, economic and diplomatic fields in Viet Nam, at home, and elsewhere. This has placed the enemy in a dilemma, making it impossible for them either to attack or to hold their remaining position. If the U.S. stubbornly persists in its war, it can in no way avoid heavier and more humiliating setbacks.

Second, the big, all-sided victories won by the South Vietnamese people and their armed forces in the past year have caused the U.S. to undergo serious upheavals, and decided the defeats of the chieftains of the U.S. warmongers right on the political front in the United States, making them more and more isolated in the world and even to their allies besides being fraught with innumerable economic and financial difficulties.

Third, these big and all-round victories have dealt a mortal blow at the Saigon puppet administration, rending it loose in the fabric, and making its doom all the more inevitable.

Under the onslaught of South Viet Nam's revolution the U.S. puppet ranks have become more confused, and the contradictions among the traitors, more acute. By stepping up pressganging, repression, looting, the enemy are directly jeopardizing the interests of many strata of the population, thus arousing higher indignation among the people and causing them to stand up still more resolutely to overthrow the puppet clique of traitors.

Fourth, the South Vietnamese people's victories have made the world's peoples see still more clearly that under present-day historic conditions, a nation, small but united and having a correct line, a closely-knit organization and a firm resolution to fight for independence and freedom, is fully able to defeat any colonialist or imperialist aggressor as at present. The movement against US aggression and in support of Viet Nam has spread to all parts of the world. Even in the United States, the front against the ruling circles and in support of Viet Nam is broadening.

Military Note-book

December 1968

PLAF REPEATED ATTACKS ON A SERIES OF ENEMY SOLID BASES

REALITIES on the theatres of operations over nearly a month have brought out the two following points:

First, the PLAF firmly held the initiative, mounted strong and continuous attacks on a series of enemy bases, and scored major victories. They wiped out U.S., puppet and satellite troops alike, and destroyed many of their storages and modern war means. Indeed, although the U.S.-puppets had decreed the emergency situation, made more efforts to tighten their grip and stepped up terrorist repressions, the PLAF repeatedly turned up striking at them everywhere, by day and by night. In four days successively from December 4, they brought the enemy under sustained attack in 26 provincial and district capitals and military sub-sectors such as Tam Ky, Hoi An (Quang Nam), Gia Nghia (Quang Duc), GoCong, Kien Phong, Vinh-Long, An Giang and Chau Doc. At Gia Nghia, Dec. 7, the PLAF in Quang Duc stormed some ten positions inside and outside the provincial town, while intercepting the adversary rushing to their rescue, thus killing 249 Yankee and puppet troops and seizing a large amount of weapons and other military equipment. Worthy of note in this period was the fact that the PLAF major encounters resulted in the annihilation of entire enemy companies and battalions, or of hundreds of officers and men right in their solid positions in many places. Within one week beginning Nov.25, Liberation troops fought ten brilliant engagements: they occupied the Song Mao base (Binh Thuan), killed, wounded and captured more than 1,000 American and puppet soldiers; swiftly knocked out an infantry battalion of the *Big Red One* at Rach Kien and two incomplete battalions of the *First Air Cav.* at Ta Xia, Ben Cau (Tay Ninh); wiped out three American encampments at Thach An, 20km Northeast of Pleiku, etc. On the night of Dec. 2I the PLAF in Tay Ninh, in a fierce surprise attack on the enemy staging base inside the township of Ben Cau, knocked down a battalion of the *First Air Cav.* and two puppet ranger companies (600 men), and destroyed 3 piece of ordnance along with 6 mortars and all the storages. Not to mention a whole series of artillery shellings on over 200 big and small bases and positions, such as the ones on the night of Dec. 17 to the small hours of the following day on about 40 positions from Quang Tri down which tried to spread out of Loc Ninh with several puppet companies marching in the van as scouters, were forcefully intercepted at Binh Long. Badly mauled in three successive days, the enemy withdrew on Nov. 29 with a lamentable balance-sheet: 700 casualties, including 5 companies entirely wiped out, and 60 tanks and APCs destroyed. Thrusting deep into the liberated area of Long An to put up a surprise attack on the local PLAF, a U.S. helilifted battalion was neatly knocked down shortly after its landing at Choi Moi, My Quy Dong village (Duc Hue). The following day another American battalion dropped at the same spot for a counter-attack was encircled and heavily beaten by the Duc Hue armed forces and people. At the same time, thanks to the coordination and whole hearted assistance of the population and combat hamlets and villages, the Liberation regional troops and guerillas in Bien Quang Tri and Quang Ngai down to Thu Dau Mot, Tay Ninh, Tra Vinh, An Giang, Ben Tre, My Tho provinces etc., the PLAF wiped out village "pacification" teams, even in their training centres and encampments. Worth mentioning is their action in Quang Nam and Quang Ngai on the night of Dec. 15 to dawn the next day against 30 positions, most of them encampments of security agents, "Eagle" civil guards and "pacification" cadres: well over 100 among the most wicked were suppressed. In Saigon, Cho Lon and Gia Dinh one has never ceased to hear the firing by guerrillas and armed self-defence fighters to break the enemy's grip and punish cruel thugs in their pay.

As for the U.S.-puppets' "emergency pacification drive", AFP (Dec., 18) said: "According to reports reaching Saigon emergency pacification in Tactical Area II (the Western Highlands and the plains of Central Trung Bo, Ed.) has nibbling the liberated zones. Instead, the revolutionary war is expanding in the towns and cities, the liberated zones are extending while their machine of coercion is shrinking piecemeal in and around urban centres and hundreds of "strategic hamlets" and "resettlement areas" have been shattered.

The most aggressive units of the U.S. marine corps, the *First Air Cav.* and the *Big Red One*, just as the "crack" mainforce units of the Saigon army which had been sent to priority sectors to put into effect the "emergency pacification program", received the bitter blows and suffered heavy losses. At the same time the liberated zones continued expanding; the revolutionary power has been established and is now in a steady process of consolidation; the three categories of the liberation armed forces — the regular army, the regional troops, and the militia and guerillas — have been ceaselessly growing up, perfectly able to crush all the perfidious schemes of the U.S. aggressors and their agents, the mulish Thieu-Ky-Huong clique.

Now in all theatres of operations the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam are resolved to rush forward, stage uninterrupted offensives and uprisings, strike at the U.S.-puppet troops and duly punish the "pacification" cadres and "Eagle" civil guards. The Americans and their henchmen have clearly exhibited their inability either to halt or cope with the mounting revolutionary tide.

LONG BINH

Gunners studying in the intervals between battles.

A small sampan glides swiftly on the river bringing Liberation armymen to the front to annihilate the enemy.
Photo: *GPPA*

Second, in the flush of their victories the PLAF broke up various enemy operations intended to loosen their pressure and plunder and concentrate the population in execution of the "Pacification program". The most typical of all was the smashing of the large-scale mop-up undertaken by 7,000 U.S, puppet and Pak Jung Hi troops at Dien Ban. What was described as "the biggest encirclement operation of this war" had met with a powerful integrated force of people's war in Quang-Nam — Da-Nang and turned out to be a "costly operation for U.S. ground troops" (UPI, Dec.10) with more than 1,000 men killed and injured. Meanwhile, the adversary's fanning-out attempts encountered strong resistance and incurred heavy losses everywhere. Three *First Air Cav.* battalions reinforced by a sizable effective of the independent U.S. 11th Armoured Regiment, to the southern tip of Ca Mau. These included 5 held by U.S. troops around Da Nang City, the CPs of the *First Air Cav.* at Phuoc Vinh (Bien Hoa), the U.S. 25th Division at Cu Chi and the puppet 25th Division at Duc Hoa (Long An).

Hoa, Ba Ria, Ben Tre, My Tho, Tra Vinh, An Giang, Soc Trang Quang Duc, Gia Lai, Binh Dinh, Quang Ngai, Thua Thien, Quang Tri and other provinces, broke 72 large and small-scale mop-ups, killing, wounding and capturing more than 8,500 GIs and puppet troops. They also seized a large amount of weapons and other military equipment.

In close coordination with the aforesaid attacks, the armed forces and people duly punished enemy "pacification" cadres, spies, and informers in so-called "Eagle" units. From encountered the strong resistance of the NFL infra-structure".

All through the last month, the Americans and the Saigon administration and army stepped up repressions and massacres, using toxic chemicals, and B-52s in indiscriminate bombings in a great many areas, including those adjoining Saigon. Despite such savage means they have proved incapable of coping with the powerful offensive of the South Vietnamese armed forces and people, of driving the war out of the urban centres and of

Editorial

New Yeaz, New great successes

1968 *has passed, 1969 has begun.*

The people of South Viet Nam have closed a year of resistance with the most glorious victories so far, and entered a new one with the prospect of still more brilliant successes.

Thanks to their generalized offensive and simultaneous uprising in early spring 1968, they have made wonderful strides forward and created a new, extremely favourable situation and strategic position, paving the way, in the steadiest manner, towards complete victory in their war of national liberation.

Strongly developing their initiative and their mettle of continuous offensive and uprising, the PLAF and people of South Viet Nam wiped out a tremendous part of the enemy's force in manpower and war means. In a single year, more than 830,000 American and puppet troops were put out of action. The US casualty list — over 200,000 men — equalled that of the preceding seven years taken together.

The aggressors have been punished right in their lairs, in the big cities. Their thin rear areas have been further narrowed down. Thieu-Ky-Huong are in their death throes in face of the revolutionary tide of the Saigon population engaged in a fierce struggle to topple them, to demand the formation of a peace cabinet with a view to negotiations with NFL, and so forth.

The NFL Political Program, shining with a just cause, has gone deep into the heart of the people, even puppet troops and functionaries, into the areas still under the adversary's control, in the towns and cities. Our people have been rising up to overthrow their rule and seize power. Revolutionary power has been established from the village up to the provincial levels, from the rural to the urban areas, on over four-fifths of the territory inhabited by eleven out the fourteen million South Vietnamese. The armed and political forces have rapidly developed. Many patriotic organizations have been set up. The Viet Nam Alliance of Patriotic, National and Peace Forces has come into being. With its Emergency National Salvation Manifesto and its just Political Program which have rallied wide sections of the intellectuals, businessmen and industrialists, students and other strata of the urban population, the Alliance stands side by side with the NFL in all the fields of the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. The bloc of broad national union has been enlarged and strengthened, and become steadier than ever before.

Together with the great victories of the army and people of the North, who have altogether defeated the U.S. war of destruction, downed more than 3,200 aircraft and captured many pilots, the far-reaching and all-sided victories won last year by the PLAF and people of the South have pushed the American aggressors and their lackeys deeper into their quagmire.

The defeat of U.S. imperialism is a foregone conclusion. They have been forced to end unconditionally their bombing and shelling of the whole territory of the North and to accept to talk with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. This constitutes a big strategic setback for them. However, stubborn, warlike and brutal in nature, they do not yet give up their aggressive design in the South. While purposely delaying the four-party conference in Paris, they are bending all their energies on the consolidation of the U.S. and puppet troops in execution of the so-called "emergency pacification program", and daily using 5,5 to 6 thousands on populous regions in South Viet Nam. They are thus perpetrating more savage crimes against the South Vietnamese people, in essence to attempt, hopelessly, at saving a total collapse. Concurrently, they continue infringing upon the security and sovereignty of the DRVN.

Facing such a situation, the NFL Central Committee, in an appeal on the occasion of its 8th founding anniversary, pointed out: "... Foremost the sacred task of all our armed forces and people is to strengthen unity, enhance their determination to win and to fight with perseverance, break the will of aggression of U.S. imperialism, advance complete victory, achieve independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity, and proceed towards the peaceful reunification of our fatherland".

Recently, expressing the South Vietnamese people's goodwill and serious attitude, in view of seeking a right political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation has made public its five-point position through the November 3, 1968 statement and appointed representatives to the Paris quadripartite conference. The Front's goodwill and correct attitude is enjoying the support of the people at home and the approbation of world public opinion.

(Continued on page 7)

OUR PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY POWER

THE *Daily Telegraph* reported on November 16, 1968: The U.S. Mission in Saigon med that Liberation Comin-formittees had been set up or elected in all "Viet Cong" — controlled or contended areas and that so far they had been established in 17 provinces, 5 townships, 33 districts and 1,170 villages.

This is not an accurate statistical figure. Inferior though the actual one, it suffices to show the birth and constant and momentous growth of the people's revolutionary power in South Viet Nam from the village to the provincial levels. Since the generalized offensives and simultaneous uprisings in early spring 1968 over 11 million of our compatriots in the old and new liberated zones have been engaged in establishing the people's revolutionary power.

While fighting, serving the front and concurrently carrying on production, they have enthusiastically taken part in discussions over the building of the new power. One could witness entire groups sitting in undergrounds to shelter themselves from enemy artillery shelling gon on exchanging their views over democratic rights, the success won by the people in setting up the revolutionary power and the duty of each citizen towards it.

Election day has been a festival for the population in all localities with flags flying and banderoles hanging all over the roads and houses and drum beating and songs resounding in every nook and corner. Dressed in their best, clusters of people gleefully moved to the polling booths to accomplish their duty as citizens.

The organizing committees had mobile ballot-boxes brought to the beds of sick electors for them to cast in their votes.

In some Ĥ 52—stru·k areas 100 per cent of the population discharged their responsibilities. In others, thanks to the determination of the local guerillas and their countrymen to drive out the raiders, and to urgent organizational work, the elections took place in a day at the previously fixed date ; from 80 to 100 per cent went to the polls.

So far thousands of villages have elected the organs of revolutionary power. In many places the representatives met in full sessions to elect People's Liberation Committees at district level such as in Ca Mau, Rach Gia, Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Quang Nam, Kontum, Gia Lai, Quang Ngai and My tho provinces.

Now the provinces and provincial capitals of Quang Tri, Thua Thien, Hue, Gia Lai, Quang Nam, Da Nang, Ca Mau, My Tho, Quang Da, Kien Phong, etc., have their Liberation Committees.

Every where the people held solemn gatherings to welcome their own committees and mark their attachment to the revolutionary power.

The People's Revolutionary Committees at all levels are composed of men and women with abilities and moral and other qualifications to wield power in the name of the electorate. The fact heroes and outstanding fighters of 18 years upwards (though not meeting the 21-year requirement) enjoy the right to stand election, gives a striking expression to the broadly democratic character of the people's revolutionary power. P.R.C. members include tried and tested cadres who have endured untold hardships and sufferings all through the struggle of the masses, and contributed to push ahead activities in all fields in their areas. They are dedicated to serving the people and earn the confidence and affection of all social strata.

The newly set up power at all levels has immediately started to impel the building of a new life, take measures intended for its own defence and implement the concrete policies mentioned in the South Viet Nam NFL's Political Program aimed at improving the people's living conditions and contributing human

How happy to cast one's ballot to elect one's representatives to the people's revolutionary power.
Photo : GPPA

and material resources to the service of the front in response to the demands of the new period and in advance towards the seizure of all power for the people.

Rejoicing at the successes they have registered, the population in the liberated zones further close their ranks and, sticking to their lands, strongly boost production as an answer to the appeal of the NFL Central Committee for a "victory over the U.S. aggressors" crop with a view to raising the people's living standard and supplying the armed forces with substantial food supplies.

The correct execution of the land policy by the NFL has created a strong impact on the development of agricultural production. In many areas, including those close to enemy bases, the population have tided over all kinds of difficulties to till or increase the cultivable lands.

The revolutionary power also pays utmost attention to the people's moral life. The new culture which has set in facilitates the formation of a new man and the promotion of revolutionary heroism in the struggle against the corrupt, reactionary culture of the American imperialists and the puppets.

Together with other concrete achievements registered in the implementation of the NFL policies, the establishment of the revolutionary power constitutes a tremendous success of the South Vietnamese people over many years of fierce struggle under the clearsighted leadership of the Front.

Clearly, the revolutionary power is the power of the people, by the people and for the people. It has been built at the cost of their blood and is in a steady process of consolidation and development. This spells out the authority of the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and proves that the Front is the true representative of the South Vietnamese people, competent to settle all problems concerning South Viet Nam.

It is the resolve of the South Vietnamese people to step up their generalized offensives and simultaneous uprisings in order to smash to smithereens the puppet Thieu-Ky-Huong administration, band of traitors, creatures of the U.S., who have sold their fatherland down the river for the American aggressors to materialize their neo-colonialist policy. It is the resolve of the South Vietnamese people to build their revolutionary power into a steady one, to make it a solid support for the struggle for the liberation of the South, the defence of the North and the advance towards peaceful national reunification.

MAI PHONG

IN SAIGON CITY

Higher rice cost, Harder life

To retrieve their deteriorating finance by laying the burden on the people's backs, the Thieu - Ky - Huong dictatorial clique have decided to increase the price of rice by 400 piasters for each hundred kilograms. The measure is rousing anger and overt protest among the townsfolk.

Reflecting this situation, the Saigon paper *Tin Sang* (Nov. 28 1968) complained that "men and women, youngsters and old-agers, housewives, workers, functionaries and armymen, everybody is stunned as in face of an impending catastrophe, although the Vietnamese are well - known for their resignation.. The increase of the price of rice will trigger a chain uplift in the prices of all other commodities. So much so that even alms must be raised for the beggars to live on."

Chinh Luan gave the lie to the allegation by the puppet Minister of Economy, Au Ngoc Ho, to the effect that "the increase in the price of rice was meant to help the peasants". Said the paper : "Rice finds a high price in Saigon but the peasant encounters a lot of difficulties in bringing it to the market... Roads are cut off, and military posts create obstructions. How can he sell all his rice to avoid the charge of storing it for the Viet Cong under pain of confiscation and destruction by burning? He is squeezed between two terrible pressures exposing him to the danger of bankruptcy".

On the market, however, the increase per 100 kg is nearly 1000 piasters owing to graft and speculation.

Right after the decision was made public in Saigon, the price jumped to 3,300 piasters for a bag (100 kg).

The prices of many other staple commodities, food - stuffs in particular, have also soared up. That of water - lilies, previously dirt cheap, and of ducks has gone up by 100 per cent, and that of chickens almost 300 per cent (from 300 to 850 piasters a kilograme).

Many school - children from poor families have had to give up their classes and earn their living by polishing shoes without, however, being able to eat their fill.

The price lift in question has not only threatened the lives of hundreds of thousands of Saigonese but the urban population of South Viet Nam generally.

The hardest hit province is Thua Thien which has to buy all the rice it needs. According to the paper *Hoa Binh* (December 10), in Hue the price of rice sold at the wharves has augmented by 500 piasters for each 100 kg, while that of other staple commodities by about 140 per cent. A similarly dark picture is seen in other cities of Trung Bo such as Da Nang, Quy Nhon and Nha Trang.

It should be recalled that the US-puppet destruction of the countryside and of the crops by bombs, bullets and toxic chemicals has turned South Viet Nam from an exporter into an importer of rice (800,000 tons a year). To quote the paper *Quyet Tien* (July 8) the American capitalists net nearly 5 billion piasters each year from the sale of this commodity to South Viet Nam.

Apart from the labouring population, those hard hit by the hight price of rice include people with fixed wages like functionaries and armymen.

HOANG SON

Saigon-Cholon people fleeing American and puppet "free bombing" areas.

President HO CHI MINH...

(Continued from page 1)

This is the victory of our whole country resolved to defeat the U.S. aggressors, the victory of the sympathy and the very great support and assistance from the peoples of fraternal countries and the friendly peoples all over the world including the progressive people in the United States.

I warmly hail all the Heroes, Model Fighters and Valiant Combatants of the People's Liberation Armed Forces, all the cadres and fighters, and the entire people of all nationalities and religions for having united closely and fought with perseverance, valeur and resourcefulness, against the U.S. and its puppets, thus recording extremely glorious victories.

The South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation is the organizer and leader of the entire South Vietnamese people in the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, which has gone from one victory to another, and is aimed at achieving independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity and proceeding toward the peaceful reunification of the Fatherland. It is the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people. As for the Saigon stooge administration, it is but a clique of puppets who betray the country and harm the people, and wilfully serve as a tool for the U.S. imperialists' aggression. It does not represent anybody: If the U.S. really wants peace and respects the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination, it must discuss with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation all questions related to South Viet Nam.

The heavier setbacks the U.S. imperialists sustain, the more wicked acts they take to cling to the southern part of our country. I believe, however, that our South Vietnamese compatriots, already closely united, will unite still more closely, maintain constant vigilance, resolutely brave all difficulties and sacrifices, and bring into full play their position of victory and strength, in order to sweep away all the U.S. aggressors and their henchmen, and march forward to complete victory.

Highly indignant at the U.S. aggressors and their hirelings who are daily perpetrating utterly barbarous crimes against their compatriots in the South, the people and fighters in North Viet Nam are always prepared to shatter all the schemes of the enemy against the North, and to give all-out support to the blood-sealed South, thus fulfilling their sacred duty of the great rear area to the great heroic front.

Our people will certainly be victorious!

The U.S. imperialists will certainly be defeated!

I take this opportunity to send to you, to all the members of the Central Committee of the NFL, all our compatriots, cadres and fighters, and all the youth and children, my best regards and my greetings of determination to win.

President NGUYEN HUU THO...

(Continued from page 1)

imperialists and their flunkeys. The South Vietnamese people have thus obtained tremendous and all-round victories, and the bigger their victories, the firmer their position and the greater their strength.

The South Vietnamese people are deeply conscious that the tremendous victories they gained in the process of resisting the most brutal war in history are the victories of the fully correct and creative Vietnamese revolutionary line, of the wholehearted and unreserved assistance given them by their 17 million compatriots in the North, of the entire people united from the South to the North and resolved to defeat the U.S. aggressors. These are also the victories of the sympathy, support and great assistance of the fraternal and friendly countries, and the peace - and justice - loving people all over the world, including the progressive people in the U.S. These victories are closely linked with the daily and hourly concern and care and valuable encouragement given by President Ho Chi Minh, esteemed leader of the whole nation, to the liberation revolution in South Viet Nam.

The U.S. imperialists have been defeated in the North. They have suffered humiliating defeats in the South. They had to stop unconditionally their bombardments on the whole territory of the DRVN. They had to accept talks with the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation. But they are still very stubborn and still unwilling to give up their aggressive design and neo-colonialist plots. They are resorting to extremely barbarous war methods in South Viet Nam, savagely massacring our compatriots and wreaking destruction in town and country. They are clinging to the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration, a gang of traitors hated by our entire people and spurned by broad sectors of public opinion in the world. They keep encroaching upon the sovereignty and security of the DRVN. In Paris, the U.S. and its lackeys are trying to delay the four-party conference which is aimed at seeking a political solution to the Viet Nam problem. The stubborn attitude and sabotage plot of the Saigon puppet administration has further laid bare its traitorous, antipopular, bellicose and anti-peace nature.

The South Vietnamese people are yearning for the reestablishment of peace in their beloved country. But that must be real peace in independence and freedom. So long as the U.S. has not given up its aggressive design against South Viet Nam, so long as there is not in Saigon an administration which represents the people's aspiration for peace, independence and democracy and which has serious intention to negotiate, there can be no correct political solution to the South Viet Nam problem.

No plots and acts, however barbarous and perfidious, can save the U.S. imperialists from ignominious failure, and the puppet administration from total collapse.

In response to your appeal and in the light of the Front's Political Program, all the people, cadres and fighters in the South, upholding their determination to fight and to win and their revolutionary heroism, pledge to push forward, with might and main, the sacred war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, keep up the offensive and uprising, fight the enemy both militarily and politically and on all battlefields — in the countryside, the jungles and the towns — thwart the aggressive design of the U.S. imperialists, overthrow the Thieu-Ky-Huong lackey administration, foil all their dark designs, and dash forward to win complete victory, and attain the set objectives, namely independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity, and ultimate peaceful reunification of the Fatherland.

In these crucial hours of the national liberation struggle, the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation pledges to constantly bring into play the great strength of the national solidarity bloc, unite the people of all strata and all classes, nationalities, parties, organisations, and religions, and all patriotic personalities, and coordinate actions with any one and force that have independence, democracy and peace at heart, in order to bring to final victory the fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation...

The "long-haired army" facing the enemy

A father-son-daughter helicopter hunting team

by LE LAM

LOI, his son and his daughter were just back from a meeting of the guerillas group. It was already late, but they couldn't sleep. The planes kept droning in the sky, and from time to time, Loi would step out into the yard and look at them. Enemy helicopters had been active every night lately over Que Son district. Nobody could work in the fields. Rice plants suffered badly from lack of water. Anyone venturing out would be shot at, and many had been killed. The guerillas had held meetings to discuss ways of coping with the situation.

"We must fight them," Loi told his son. "This can't be allowed to go on".

"You're right, father," said the 15-old-boy, "but how could we fight them? I've got only a few grenades."

A pause, then he added, "All right, I'll wait for them to land and blow them up with grenades. This has been done in many places, the guerillas told me".

The boy's mother had died when he was only five. Now he was big and strong, and full of resolve and courage. Loi told his son, "All right, dig a combat trench, I'll go and borrow a gun."

Without saying a word, the boy went into the house, took a pick and shovel and went to a nearly field, where he set about digging a gun emplacement. Tu, his sister, gave him a hand. At dawn, the trench was completed, as Loi returned with two rifles. He and his son got ready for combat. As for Tu, she kept watch, holding a bamboo tocsin.

Soon after daybreak, Tu's tocsin resounded. Two helicopters were coming, one a troop-carrying HU-1A. They were flying very low, skimming tree tops. Loi and his son took careful aim. When the choppers came within range, Loi shouted, "Fire!"

Their guns crashed. But the HU.1A descended even lower. "Fire!" Again the shots rang out. The chopper gave a jolt then stood still. A red-haired pilot popped his head out and took a look.

"That rascal is laughing at us," shouted Loi in anger." I'll bring him down!"

He jumped out of the trench and trained his gun on the chopper.

"Pang!" The helicopter reeled and was set ablaze. Within seconds, it crashed to the ground, spewing up black smoke. The other helicopter fired a rocket at random and turned tail.

The brilliant feat recorded by Loi, his son and his daughter was warmly hailed by the villagers. That evening, they talked to the guerillas about their experience and the following days, gun-emplacements mushroomed in the whole region.

FIERCE FIGHT BY THE LONG-HAIRED ARMY

"We pledge to plant this flag on top of the My Long administrative building. For one who falls, others will rush up!"

Hardly had Sister Bay's determined voice stop speaking when hundreds of arms were raised and energetic voices shouted, "So we pledge!" The solemn oath taken by the women insurgents of Giong Trom district (Ben Tre province) resounded in a coconut grove, drowning the noise of the wind blowing in the leaves. The noon sun was beating hard, but the heat was nothing compared with the fire of hatred burning in the hearts of the long-haired fighters heading for the My Long sub-sector.

My Long now stood in full view of the demonstrators, a pitiful sight after the fierce attacks of the Liberation troops over the past few days.

"They're coming!" shouted the sentry in terror, and vanished. Other soldiers also took to their heels.

Sister Bay calmly streered the boat with an outboard motor toward the landing stage of the market place. When it came ashore, she leapt on the river bank, waved a big NFL flag and shouted, "Forward!"

Like seasoned combatants, her 200-odd friends stormed ashore, broke through the barbed wire fences and streamed into the grounds of the My Long administrative headquarters.

From the direction of the Lien Quang factory, the highway, the Dao base, the guerillas of Luong Hoa, Luong Phu, and My Thanh opened heavy support fire.

Panic-stricken, Vu Hong, one of the cruel agents of the puppet administration, fired a shot at Sister Tu. It was like pouring oil on the fire: he was immediately surrounded and seized.

Sister Bay rushed up to plant a NFL flag on top of the administrative building. Alas, she was felled by a shot fired by a dastardly enemy agent from his place of hiding. Immediately, dozens of her friends dashed forward to replace her, and the flag soon proudly fluttered over the My Long headquarters.

It was a complete victory. Enemy remnants were hunted down and ordered to surrender. Hurrahs shook the whole area.

NFL AND DRVN DELEGATIONS...

(*Continued from page*) 2

peaceful settlement of the Viet Nam problem is the four points of the Government of the DRVN, reiterated on November 3, 1968, and the five points on the political settlement of the South Viet Nam problem, expounded on November 3, 1968, by the SVNNFL. The two Delegations strongly condemn and denounce to world public opinion the fact that the U.S. and the Saigon administration have availed themselves of the procedural discussions to delay the Paris conference on Viet Nam. If the U.S. really wants the Paris conference to open in order to proceed rapidly to substantial discussions leading to an "honorable peace" in Viet Nam as it has often declared, the representatives of the U.S. and of the Saigon administration must immediately sit at the circular table proposed by the Delegations of the DRVN and of the SVNNFL.

So long as the U.S. maintains the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique — a puppet, dictatorial, bellicose and corrupt administration which is trying by all means to sabotage the Paris conference on Vietnam — it will be difficult for the conference to start and even if it can start, it will be difficult for it to bring about any result, due to the obstacles created by the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique. The South Viet Nam people are passionately fighting for the overthrow of the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, and for the immediate establishment of a peace cabinet that would approve of talks with the SVNNFL and of the participation in the four-party conference in order to find a peaceful settlement of the South Viet Nam problem. This is a legitimate demand which enjoys the support of large sectors of public opinion.

All peace- and justice-loving people in the world including the American people are looking forward to the early holding of the four-party conference in Paris, and are demanding that the U.S. put an end to its aggression, definitively stop all infringement upon the sovereignty and security of the D.R.V.N., withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops from South Viet Nam, and let the South Vietnamese people settle themselves their own affairs, without foreign interference, so that they can build an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam and advance towards the peaceful reunification of the country in conformity with the fundamental principles of the 1954 Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam. If the U.S. and the Saigon administration keep to their present obdurate attitude, they must bear full responsibility and will necessarily meet with failure"

Violations of the Christmas truce by American and puppet troops

ALL through December 24 and in the morning of December 25, while the PLAF strictly implemented the truce ordered by the NFL and PLAF High Command, and while the South Vietnamese people were celebreting Christmas, American troops and wicked thugs in U.S. pay launched repeated mopping-up operations, using aircraft and artillery to attack many populous areas in South Viet Nam.

On December 24, they bombarded the waterside of Vam Co Dông and Vam Co Tây (Duc Hoa district, Duc Hue, Can Giuôc (North Long An), Bên Câu and Chau thanh (Tay Ninh). On the night of the 24th, U.S. planes and cannons struck at Bên Cat, Tân Uyên, Cu Chi, Trang Bang, Duong Minh Châu and many places around Da Nang and in Quang Tri, Thua Thiên, My Tho, Bên Tre, etc. On December 25 morning, they went on with their raids, causing heavy losses to the people in lives and property.

On December 24 morning, a Dakota spread toxic chemicals on Giông Luc in My Thanh Tay village, Duc Hue district, Long An province, intoxicating many people into swoon and vomiting.

In My Tho from 7 a.m. on December 24, two U.S. jets and 2 helicopter gunships bombed and strafed My Thiên and Hâu My villages in Cai Bè, district. After that, helicopters came in several waves to land troops to raid the said villages.

In Soc Trang, from 8 a.t to 5 p.m. on December 24, the enemy sent many flights of jet and L-19 reconnaissance planes to bomb and rocket Vinh Loi, My Quoi (Thanh Tri district) killing or wounding a number of people among them many Catholics. Many houses were burned down or damaged.

In Tay Ninh, the U.S. military on December 25 sent aircraft to attack from morning till evening Te Pang, Bien Gioi and Hao Duoc villages.

In Ca Mau, on December 24, many flights of jets and helicopters were sent to strafe several times Phong Lac, Khanh Binh and Trân Hoi villages causing to the people many losses in lives and property.

New Year...

(Continued from page 5)

The South Vietnamese people are deeply attached to peace, but it must be a peace in independence and freedom. So long as there remains an American aggressor on whatever part of their land, they will go on fighting to wipe him out.

On the basis of the successes they have registered, in the present extremely propitious situation, with its own forces and capabilities, and with the valuable assistance of their friends in all continents, including progressive people in the United States, the South Vietnamese people enter the year 1969 lighthearted and fully confident that it will be one of new great victories.

Under the N.F.L. glorious standard, the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, are resolved to rush ahead on the impetus of their victories, riding over all difficulties and hardships, so as to defeat completely the U.S. aggressors and their valets, achieve an independent, democratic, peaceful, neutral and prosperous South Viet Nam, proceed towards the peaceful reunification of their fatherland and bring their contribution to the safeguarding of peace in Asia and the world.

SOUTH VIET NAM IN STRUGGLE

WORLD OPINION :

NFL, authentic representative of the SVN people

TOGETHER with the South Vietnamese people, their friends around the world have jubilantly commemorated the NFL eighth founding anniversary. "Weeks of solidarity with Viet Nam", "Months of solidarity with Viet Nam", grand meetings and messages and letters of greeting have vividly reflected the warm feeling of the people in all continents for the NFL, the authentic representative of the fourteen million South Vietnamese.

In the socialist countries, from Pyongyang to Berlin, in Moscow and Peking as in Tirana, and Havana, solemn meetings were held.

Thousands upon thousands of people in other countries of Asia, Oceania, America, Europe and Africa attended gatherings, demonstrations, concerts, etc. and expressed keen sympathy and firm support for the NFL In many countries, Party and State leaders were present at the gatherings and voiced their people's sentiments for our resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

Long before December 20 in many socialist, newly-independent and capitalist states, people from various strata already organized effective actions such as "A ship for Viet Nam", "Electricity for Viet Nam", "Extra hours for Viet Nam" "Raise fund for Viet Nam!... These actions drew millions and millions of people from all walks of life, without distinction of race.

Like others in the world, broad segments of the New York people staged a demonstration in front of the White House, on December 20, shouting: The South Viet Nam NFL shall win! Bring the GIs home!.

On this accasion the NFL Central Committee and mass organizations received messages of greeting from Party and Government leaders of the socialist and newly independent states, communist Parties in capitalist countries, and international, regional and national organizations. All these messages expressed anger at the obdurate and bellicose attitude of the American imperialists and their puppets, and strong support for the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people for national salvation.

The Party and Government leaders of the USSR reiterated that "The Soviet Government and people unswervingly back the South Vietnamese people in their just struggle against imperialist aggression".

The Chinese Party and Government leaders stressed that "The great successes recorded by the South Vietnamese people in their fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, have paved the way for defeating the American imperialists, achieving the lofty goal of liberating the South, defending the North, ultimately reunifying the country, and contributing to the revolutionary struggle of the oppressed peoples the world over..."

The message from the far-off Freedom Island by Mrs Melba Hernandez, President of the Cuban Committee for Solidarity with Viet Nam said, "The Cuban people fully back the five-point stand of the Front and the four-point stand of the DRVN Government. The South Viet Nam NFL is the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people."

On November 21, 1968, the Japanese Committee for Support to Viet Nam held a meeting at Kobe to bid farewell to the second ship carrying goods to Viet Nam.
Photo: Japan Press Service.

From the Land of Angkor-South Viet Nam's next-door neighbour- Head of State Norodom Sihanouk emphasized the confidence of the Khmer people, which is also that of the world people: "With the Political Program and the five-point position put forth by the Front, South Viet Nam will soon achieve peace in complete independence..."

Standing in the common front against US aggression, Prince Souphanouvong, President of Neo Lao Haksat, reaffirmed the consistent stand of the fraternal Lao people: "The NFL is the authentic representative of the South Vietnamese people; it is entitled to resolve every problem regarding them."

The messages from the Governments and Parties of German Democratic Republic, Albania, Bulgaria, Rumania, the Korean DPR, Mongolia, and from the French, Japanese and other Comunist Parties also voiced solidarity with, and resolute support for, the South Vietnamese people until they have won complete victory They all recognized the Front as the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people and regarded the latter's just struggle as a great contribution to the revolution waged by the oppressed peoples throughout the world.

Voices have been also heard condemning the obdurate and bellicose attitude of the American aggressors and their puppets, and demanding that they put an end to their war of aggression, withdraw U.S. troops, recognize the NFL and engage talks with it, and let the South Vietnamese settle their own affairs without foreign interference. Clearly enough, all this spells out the world people's deep feeling for, and militant solidarity with, the South Vietnamese people This also unmistakably evidences the mounting influence and prestige of the Front in the world.

The people of South Viet Nam sincerely thank their friends around the world for the warm backing they extend to us. They are firmly confident that under the correct and resolute leadership of the Front, with the unity of mind and joint action of their countrymen in the North, and the sympathy and support of the world people, they and their armed forces, now forging ahead on the impetus of their generalized offensive and uprising, will certainly defeat the American aggressors, liberate the South, defend the North, proceed to the peaceful reunification of their fatherland, and contribute to the safeguarding of peace in Southeast Asia and the world.

ANH TUAN

On the occasion of Cuba's National Day.

THE CUBAN REVOLUTION IS FORGING AHEAD

ON January 1, 1969, the fraternal people of Cuba have solemnly celebrated their tenth National Day.

The same day, ten years ago, after nearly a century of selfless sacrifice and bloody, hard but heroic struggle, they wrote a glorious page in their history. Carrying on the traditions of indomitable courage of Cespedes, Jose Marty, Maceo and under the clever leadership of Fidel Castro, they had fought for their country's independence and freedom with an iron will inspired by an ardent patriotism and a deep hatred for the enemy. Following an East-West Long March they overthrew the puppet administration of Batista, thus smashing the U.S. imperialists' neo-colonialist fetters.

The Cuban people have ever since heroically and successfully foiled all U.S. schemes of encirclement and sabotage, overcome all difficulties and made firm steps in the building of the first socialist state in America.

True to the long-standing and admirable traditions of their nation, the entire Cuban people have been pushing forward their revolution, "holding aloft in their wind the banner of freedom", as Fidel Castro put it, "a freedom with the full meaning of the word, freedom achieved at the cost of one hundred years of sacrifice, one hundred years of bloodshed". They have liquidated the vestiges of the old society, increased the forces of socialism and national defence, ready to shatter all manoeuvres and acts of aggression and sabotage of U.S. imperialism, their "greedy, perfidious and cruel neighbour".

Imbued with the offensive revolutionary spirit of the Moncada and Sierra Macstra fighters, with the undaunted spirit of the victors of Giron, hundreds of thousands of youths throughout Cuba have volunteered to join the "100 years of revolutionary struggle" and "Che Guevara" brigades and intensified the emulation movement in production, in hydraulic work around Havana and in many other places. The military training campaign has expanded everywhere with the setting up of innumerable self-defence units. Putting into pratice the slogan: "Fatherland or Death! We will win!", the Cuban people have been turning their country into an ever-stronger and more prosperous one.

The tradition of international solidarity has grown through a century of revolutionary struggle. Following the teachings and example of Jose Marty, the spiritual father of many Cuban generations, the people of Cuba have consistently and actively supported the struggle of Latin American and other peoples for independence, freedom, democracy and social progress.

Their militant solidarity with the Vietnamese people now standing in the van of the struggle against aggressive U.S. imperialism, the world peoples' number one enemy, has proved most profound and intense.

The Cuban Committee for Solidarity with South Viet Nam has shown a great activity. Under the auspices of this committee and leading bodies in science, law, culture, public health and education, a second teach-in against the war of extermination in Viet Nam was recently held in the "Freedom Island". It was a remarkable contribution to the struggle of our people in its present decisive period. In his closing speech on October 31, 1968, Raul Roa, member of the Central Committee of the Cuban Communist Party and Foreign Minister, stressed, "The Cuban people have to do much more, for, as our comrade Commander-in-Chief, Major Fidel Castro, said, they are ready to give their blood to the Vietnamese people". A few days later, receiving Hoang Bich Son, Head of the South Viet Nam NFL Permanent Representation in Cuba, President Dorticos reaffirmed the sympathy and all-out support of the Cuban Communist Party, the Cuban government and people to the just position and policy of the NFL as expressed in the latter's statement of November 3, 1968 on the political solution to the South Vietnamese problem.

It is clear that the Cuban people have shared our sufferings, our hatred and our joys, considered our achievements and successes as their own, and are determined to struggle with us, in their own conditions, against the common enemy, until complete victory.

We feel deeply moved by and grateful for this unreserved and lofty support. In our fight against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, we are proud to have our Cuban brothers close by us.

We rejoice to celebrate the 10th National Day of Cuba, regarding it as a great feast of our own. We sincerely extend to the fraternal people of Cuba our warmest congratulations and wish new and greater successes to their revolution.

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